

1       1. **(Currently Amended).** A golf ball retrieval tool comprising  
2           an elongated handle having a longitudinal axis;  
3           a tool having  
4              a body coupled to one end of the handle and extending substantially parallel the  
5           longitudinal axis;  
6              a shelf disposed on an end of the body distal the handle and substantially  
7           perpendicular to the body;  
8              a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to both the  
9           shelf and the body, wherein the body, the shelf and the backstop define an open-cornered support  
10          for a golf ball;  
11              a plurality of prongs disposed on and extending from the shelf opposite the backstop;  
12          and  
13              coupling means for coupling the tool to the handle.

1       2.      Canceled.

1       3. **(Currently Amended).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 1-2- wherein  
2           the prongs extend coplanar with the shelf opposite the backstop.

1       4. **(Currently Amended).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein the coupling means  
2          comprises  
3              a tang extending longitudinally from ~~the proximate~~ an end of the body proximate the handle;  
4          and  
5              a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle, the plug surrounding and defining a slot adapted  
6          to receive and frictionally grasp the tang.

1       **5. (Original).**           The retrieval tool according to Claim 4 wherein  
2                                  the plug is adapted to receive the tang in a plurality of angular positions about the  
3                                  longitudinal axis.

1       **6. (Currently Amended).**   The retrieval tool according to Claim 4 wherein the plug further  
2                                  comprises  
3                                  a cap having a dimension larger than an ~~outside~~ inside dimension of the shaft.

1       **7. (Original).**           The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein the coupling means  
2                                  comprises  
3                                  a strap coupled to the body and adapted to wrap around the handle to secure the body to the  
4                                  handle.

1       **8. (Original).**           The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein the coupling means  
2                                  comprises  
3                                  a plate disposed on a side of, and oriented substantially perpendicular to, the tool body and  
4                                  adapted to contact an end of the handle; and  
5                                  a strap coupled to the body and adapted to wrap around the handle to secure the body to the  
6                                  handle.

1       **9. (Original).**           The retrieval tool according to Claim 8 wherein the plate comprises  
2                                  a yoke having a mouth opening open toward the handle and adapted to receive the end of the  
3                                  handle within the mouth.

1       10. **(Original).**     The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein  
2                  the backstop is disposed on an end of the shelf a spaced distance apart from the body to  
3                  define a gap adapted to receive storage means for the tool.

1       11. **(Original).**     The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein  
2                  the handle comprises a golf club having a head and a grip on opposite ends of a shaft; and  
3                  the tool removably couples to the grip.

1       12. **(Original).**     The retrieval tool according to Claim 11 wherein the coupling means  
2                  comprises  
3                  a tang extending longitudinally from the proximate end of the body; and  
4                  a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle, the plug surrounding and defining an slot adapted  
5                  to receive and frictionally grasp the tang.

1       13. **(Currently Amended).**     The retrieval tool according to Claim 12 wherein the plug further  
2                  comprises  
3                  a cap having a dimension larger than an outside inside dimension of the shaft.

1       14. (Original).       A golf ball retrieval tool comprising  
2                  an elongated handle having  
3                          a longitudinal axis and an inside surface;  
4                  a plug coupled to the inside surface;  
5                  a tool head having  
6                          a body coupled to and extending from the plug;  
7                          a shelf disposed on an end of the body distal the handle and substantially  
8                  perpendicular to the body;  
9                          a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to both the  
10                 shelf and the body, whereby the body, the shelf and the backstop define an open-cornered support  
11                 for a golf ball; and  
12                  two tapered prongs disposed on the shelf and extending from the shelf opposite the  
13                 backstop.

1 15. (Currently Amended). An improved method of retrieving a golf ball, the method comprising

2 providing a golf ball retrieval tool having

3 an elongated handle having a longitudinal axis extending between two opposite ends;

4 a tool adapted to couple to the handle and having

5 a body extending substantially parallel the longitudinal axis;

6 a shelf disposed on the body distal the handle substantially perpendicular to

7 the body; and

8 a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to

9 both the shelf and the body a spaced distance apart from the body to define a gap adapted to receive

10 storage means for the tool wherein the body, the shelf and the backstop define an open-cornered

11 support for a golf ball; then

12 coupling the tool to the handle; then

13 grasping the end of the handle opposite the tool; then

14 lowering the tool into a cup containing a golf ball; then

15 positioning the shelf near a lower portion of the golf ball; then

16 tilting the handle to urge the golf ball onto the shelf; then

17 raising the handle upward to retrieve the ball from the cup.

1       16. (Original).       The improved method of retrieving a golf ball of Claim 15 wherein the step  
2       of coupling the tool to the handle further comprises  
3               providing  
4                       a tang extending longitudinally from the proximate end of the body; and  
5                       a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle and surrounding and defining a slot  
6       adapted to receive and frictionally grasp the tang; then  
7               inserting the tang into the slot; then  
8               pressing the tool towards the handle along the longitudinal axis of the handle.

1       17. (Original).       The improved method of retrieving a golf ball of claim 15 wherein the step  
2       of coupling the tool to the handle comprises  
3               providing  
4                       a shank disposed on the body and extending longitudinally away from the body;  
5                       a yoke disposed on a side of the tool body and having an opening oriented away from  
6       the shelf and adapted to receive an end of the handle; and  
7               a strap coupled to the shank; then  
8               positioning the tool with the shank adjacent the handle with the end of the handle received  
9       within the opening of the yoke, then  
10          wrapping the strap around the handle to secure the tool to the handle.

1       18. (Currently Amended). An improved method of repairing a golf ball mark, the method  
2       comprising  
3           providing a golf ball retrieval tool having  
4              an elongated handle having a longitudinal axis extending between two opposite ends;  
5              a tool adapted to couple to the handle and having  
6                  a body extending substantially parallel the longitudinal axis;  
7                  a shelf disposed on the body distal the handle and substantially perpendicular  
8        to the body;  
9                  a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to  
10      both the shelf and the body; and  
11                  a plurality of prongs disposed on and extending from the shelf opposite the  
12      backstop; then  
13                  coupling the tool to the handle; then  
14                  grasping the end of the handle opposite the tool; then  
15                  positioning the prongs against the ground near the ball mark such that the prongs may are  
16      adapted to penetrate the ground beneath a bottom of the ball mark; then  
17                  applying pressure to the backstop to urge the prongs to penetrate the ground are under the ball  
18      mark; then  
19                  rotating the handle to lift the prongs and elevate the bottom of the ball mark.

1       19. (Original).       The improved method of repairing a golf ball mark of Claim 18 wherein the  
2       step of coupling the tool to the handle further comprises;  
3               providing  
4                a tang extending longitudinally from the body; and  
5                a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle and surrounding and defining a slot  
6       adapted to receive and frictionally grasp the tang; then  
7               inserting the tang into the slot; then  
8               pressing the tool towards the handle along the longitudinal axis of the handle.

1       20. (Currently Amended).   The improved method of repairing a golf ball mark of Claim 18  
2       wherein the step of coupling the tool to the handle further comprises;  
3               providing  
4                a shank disposed on and extending longitudinally away from the body;  
5                a yoke disposed on a side of the body and having an opening oriented away from the  
6       shelf, the opening adapted to receive one end of the handle; and  
7               and a strap coupled to a shank; then  
8               positioning the tool with the shank adjacent the handle with the end of the handle received  
9       within the opening of the yoke; then  
10              wrapping the strap around the handle to secure the tool to the handle.

1       21. **(Currently Amended).** An improved method of preventing a golf club grip from contacting  
2       the ground during use, the golf club having a shaft having a longitudinal axis extending between two  
3       opposite ends, a head on one end and a grip on the opposite end, the method comprising  
4               providing a golf ball retrieval tool adapted to couple to the grip and having  
5                       a body extending substantially parallel the longitudinal axis;  
6                       a shelf disposed on the body distal the handle and substantially perpendicular to the  
7       body;  
8                       a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to both the  
9       shelf and the body a spaced distance apart from the body to define a gap adapted to receive storage  
10      means for the tool; and  
11               coupling means for coupling the tool to the grip; then  
12               coupling the tool to the grip; then  
13               grasping the golf club by the grip and laying the head onto the ground; then  
14               laying the golf club down substantially parallel to the ground until the tool contacts the  
15       ground whereby a gap remains between the grip and the ground; then  
16               retrieving the golf club from the ground by inserting lifting means between the grip and the  
17       ground and lifting the grip.

1       22. (New).     A golf ball retrieval tool comprising  
2                  an elongated handle having a longitudinal axis;  
3                  a tool having  
4                          a body coupled to one end of the handle and extending substantially parallel the  
5                  longitudinal axis;  
6                  a shelf disposed on an end of the body distal the handle and substantially  
7                  perpendicular to the body;  
8                  a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to both the  
9                  shelf and the body a spaced distance apart from the body to define a gap between the backstop and  
10                 the body adapted to receive storage means for the tool; and  
11                 coupling means for coupling the tool to the handle.

1       23. (New).     The retrieval tool according to Claim 22 wherein the coupling means comprises  
2                  a tang extending longitudinally from an end of the body proximate the handle; and  
3                  a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle, the plug surrounding and defining a slot adapted  
4                 to receive and frictionally grasp the tang.

1       24. (New).     The retrieval tool according to Claim 22 wherein the coupling means comprises  
2                  a strap coupled to the body and adapted to wrap around the handle to secure the body to the  
3                 handle.

1       25. **(New).**     The retrieval tool according to Claim 22 wherein the coupling means comprises  
2                          a plate disposed on a side of, and oriented substantially perpendicular to, the tool body and  
3                          adapted to contact an end of the handle; and  
4                          a strap coupled to the body and adapted to wrap around the handle to secure the body to the  
5                          handle.

1       26. **(New).**     The retrieval tool according to Claim 25 wherein the plate comprises  
2                          a yoke having a mouth opening open toward the handle and adapted to receive the end of the  
3                          handle within the mouth.